

concrete wall, as some falsely claim. It is a commonsense request for a sophisticated border wall system, including strategically placed 30-foot steel barriers, technology, lights, cameras, sensors, and other infrastructure.

Fact: Currently, there are 700 miles of physical barriers on our southern border, a measure 90 Democrats, including Barack Obama, Joe Biden, Hillary Clinton, DIANNE FEINSTEIN, and CHUCK SCHUMER supported in 2006.

Speaker PELOSI, it is interesting you claim walls are "immoral," when many of the leading voices in your party have a previous record of supporting physical barriers on our southern border. Do you consider them immoral?

Fact: Border walls work. The Department of Homeland Security reports that, where a wall was built, illegal crossings have dropped by 90 percent or more. For example, apprehensions of illegal aliens crossing the border in El Paso, Texas, dropped 72 percent in 1 year and 95 percent over 22 years. And veteran Chief Border Patrol Agent Gloria Chavez, a Hispanic American, not a political appointee, a career professional with the Border Patrol agency, has said that the newly constructed border wall in her El Centro Sector of California has already reduced illegal border crossings.

Speaker PELOSI, you are entitled to your own opinion, but you are not entitled to your own facts. I certainly agree with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who say we must end this government shutdown and pay our Federal employees. It is wrong that these workers are missing paychecks, especially essential government workers who are required to work.

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After all, many of these people are corrections officers, air traffic controllers, Federal court personnel, and Border Patrol agents. These are the very people who are charged with the responsibility of keeping the American people safe. That is why I cosponsor the No Work Without Pay Act, which would require us to pay these essential Federal workers during the pendency of a shutdown.

But as important as it is that we timely fund these patriotic Americans' paychecks, it is equally important, and perhaps more important, that we fund their mission. So by all means, we must end this government shutdown, but that objective won't happen when the Speaker of the House refuses to accept basic, irrefutable facts. It won't happen until both parties sit down and offer a proposal, and a compromise, and a counterproposal, something that the Speaker of the House refuses to do.

So my other friends on the other side of the aisle, many of them who I know are equally committed to protecting the American people, to Speaker PELOSI, and Senator SCHUMER: Stop the partisan games. Do your job. Protect the American people from drugs and criminals. End this shutdown, and fund commonsense border security.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

SHUTDOWN STORIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Hampshire (Ms. KUSTER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call for an immediate end to President Trump's irresponsible and unnecessary government shutdown which has now entered its 26th day.

People in my home State of New Hampshire and across this country are suffering and they are put at risk because of this manufactured crisis.

One woman wrote into my office: "My two girls and I count on the auto deposit from their dad. If this goes on, we will not be able to buy food, pay bills, or buy gasoline."

Another constituent wrote: "We are not okay with a shutdown for a wall or for any other reason. We are not pawns on a chessboard."

The wife of a Coast Guard member spoke of the sacrifices that their family has already made for this country. And now they are facing the uncertainty of even being able to pay their mortgage.

We take an oath to protect and defend this country. Safety is our number one job. And, yet, air traffic controllers, TSA agents, DEA agents, and even, ironically, Border Patrol agents are not receiving their pay, and our safety is at risk.

One of the most heart-wrenching stories that I have heard is that domestic violence shelters in New Hampshire and across this country are cutting services to women and children whose lives are at risk. These stories go on and on.

Who in our society are truly being hurt by President Trump's shutdown: women and children; seniors; and veterans, whose health, safety, and well-being are put at risk by his intransigence.

Here in the House we have voted repeatedly to reopen the government and the Senate should follow suit. I urge the President to end this shutdown so we can focus on the hard work that is expected of us by the American people.

Democrats and Republicans in this Congress agree that we need comprehensive immigration reform and 21st century border security.

Now is the time to reopen the government so that we can work together in good faith to advance meaningful legislation that will strengthen and protect our country. Mr. MCCONNELL and President Trump, do your job.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are again reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF NORVAL REECE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, on Monday we recognize Martin Luther King Day and we celebrate his legacy of civil rights and his promotion of opportunity for all.

Today, I am proud to recognize an individual from Bucks County, Pennsylvania, who has spent his life and career dedicated to the advancement of equality.

Norval Reece of Yardley remembers witnessing Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech and marching with him on the third march from Selma to Montgomery. He worked closely with Dr. King to enact change and in 1967 spent several hours with Dr. King in Philadelphia.

Norval credits his devotion to civil rights activism to his Quaker faith. He served in India with the American Friends Service Committee, and later continued to work on their behalf upon his return home. He later became a successful businessman, building his own media company that helped bring cable television to then-Communist Poland.

Mr. Speaker, Norval's life and dedication to the service of others is truly inspiring, and we thank him, his wife, and their sons, Tim and Stockton, for their service to their community and our country.

RECOGNIZING THE FOOD CENTER AT THE MORRISVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a faith community in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, that is going the extra mile to minimize the negative impact felt by Federal workers and their families during this prolonged government shutdown.

Last Friday, an estimated 800,000 Federal employees missed their paychecks. Understanding the undue hardship these Federal employees are facing, the Food Center at the Morrisville Presbyterian Church stepped up to the plate, opening their door to furloughed Federal workers and their families with the opportunity to receive food.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly blessed to represent such thoughtful and compassionate constituents.

As I did in this same exact spot yesterday, I urge my colleagues to put aside their differences and reopen our government. Our inaction is putting Federal workers in an untenable position.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thank you to the Reverend Rachel Rhodes and all the staff and volunteers at the Food Center at Morrisville Presbyterian Church for their work. Each and every one of them makes our community a special place.

STALKING AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, January is Stalking Awareness Month, and I rise today to bring attention to the critical need for action to empower survivors and protect victims of this crime.